

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended to more clearly define the invention. Claim 1 is independent.

Applicants thank Examiner Estremsky for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative during a personal interview on March 22, 2005. This Amendment amends independent claim 1 to overcome the rejections in light of the discussion at the personal interview.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 2-3 and 7-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Taranto reference in view of the Palmquist reference.

This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example,

independent claim 1, is directed to a lid lock apparatus for a glove box, which is attached to inside of a lid to engage hook portions with the glove box. The lid lock apparatus includes a swing member, a swing axis of which is swingably supported by a lid of the glove box, a pair of lock arms, which are disposed in a symmetrical manner with respect to the swing axis, extend in a horizontal direction, and each includes the hook portion at a tip end thereof. The swing member is adapted to position the pair of lock arms in at least one of an extended position and a retracted position. The lid lock apparatus also includes a subassembly member for holding the pair of lock arms at the retracted position without user intervention. The swing member is disposed in a symmetrical manner with respect to the swing axis and includes a pair of cam grooves, and the lock arms include cam pins for engaging with the cam grooves to move the lock arms in opposite directions.

Conventional lid locks have included a pair of hooks and a link mechanism for coupling the hooks attached within a lid which increases the complexity of assembly and, as a result, increases the cost (page 2, lines 17-23).

Further, these conventional lid locks require adjustment to ensure smooth movement of the hooks which also increases the complexity of assembly and an increase in cost (page 2, lines 23-27).

Additionally, conventional lid locks require delivery of a number of individual parts which must then be assembled to the lid. This increases the risk of missing parts and management of parts. (Page 3, lines 1-4).

In stark contrast, the present invention provides a lid lock that includes a subassembly for

holding the pair of lock arms at the retracted position without user intervention. In this manner, the present invention makes assembly and adjustment easier, reduces the number of working processes in the assembly, reduces the cost and makes management of the parts easier (page 3, lines 7-13).

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that the Palmquist reference would have been combined with the Taranto reference to form the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including a lid lock that includes a subassembly member for holding the pair of lock arms at the retracted position without user intervention as recited by independent claim 1. As explained above, this feature is important for making assembly and adjustment easier, reducing the number of working processes in the assembly, reducing the cost, and making management of the parts easier.

During the personal interview, Examiner Estremsky alleged that operating mechanism 12 that is disclosed by the Palmquist reference is for holding the latching members 11 in a retracted position when a user rotates the operating mechanism 12 against the outwardly biasing force of the spring 33.

Clearly, the devices that are disclosed by the applied references are not capable of holding the latching members 11 in a retracted position without user intervention.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 4-6.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and the discussion at the March 22, 2005, personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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